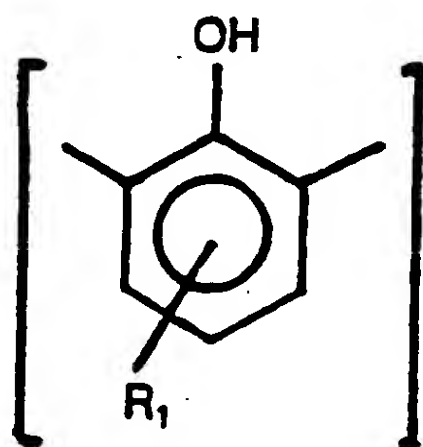


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

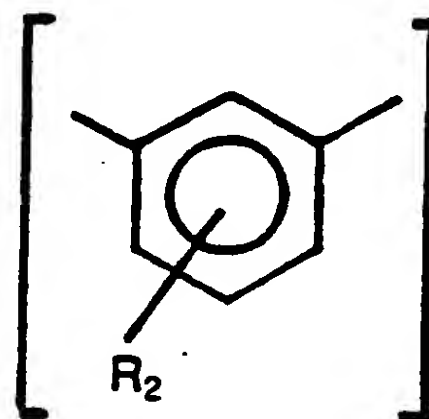
1. (Currently Amended) A polymeric composition for friction elements which ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of a co-polymer between (I) a resin containing phenolic groups and a reticulation agent (II) an organopolysiloxane resin containing terminal silanol group, and (III) an epoxy resin or an epoxidised organopolysiloxane (HH), ~~in the absence of an organotin catalyst, and~~ wherein the bonding between the phenolic groups and the terminal silanol groups is substantially complete.

2. (Original) A polymeric composition according to claim 1, wherein the resin comprising phenolic group comprises also terminal non aromatic alcoholic groups, a part at least of the terminal non aromatic alcoholic groups being bound to the terminal silanol groups.

3. (Previously presented) A polymeric composition according to any of the preceding claims, in which the resin (I) containing phenolic groups is of general formula (A) and includes moieties of the general formula (A'):



A



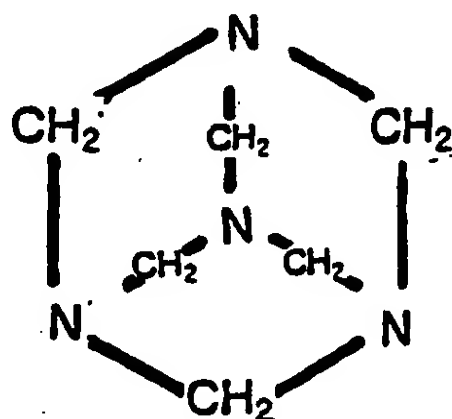
A'

R_1 or $R_2 = \text{H, Alkyl, } -\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$

4. (Original) A polymeric composition according to claim 3, in which the resin (I) containing phenolic groups is of general formula (A) and includes moieties of the general formula (A').

5. (Previously presented) The polymeric composition according to claim 1, wherein the organopolysiloxane resin (II) containing terminal silanol groups is a hydroxy phenyl alkyl silicone resin.

6. (Previously presented) A polymeric composition according to claim 1, in which the reticulation agent is hexamine of formula:



7. (Currently Amended) A process of preparation of a polymeric composition according to claim 1, comprising the following steps:

a) mixing (I) a resin containing the phenolic groups and the reticulation agent, (II) resin containing the terminal silanol groups, and (III) an epoxy resin or the epoxidised organosiloxane ~~in the absence of an organotin catalyst,~~

b) curing the mixture for a period of time sufficient to complete substantially the reaction between the phenolic groups and the terminal silanol groups,

c) post-heating the product obtained under b).

8. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 7, in which the mixing step a) is conducted at a temperature not exceeding 50°C.

9. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 8, in which the curing step b) is conducted under a pressure of at least 50 atm. and the temperature is from 80 to 160°C.

10. (Original) A process according to claim 7, in which the curing step b) is divided in a number of cycles permitting the degassing of the reaction mixture.

11. (Original) A process according to claim 10, in which each degassing cycle is conducted in sequence at increasing pressure and temperature.

12. (Original) A process according to claim 7, in which the post-heating step c) is conducted at a temperature of at least 200°C under atmospheric pressure.

13. (Original) A process according to claim 7 in which the starting resins are in a form of powder with a particle size distribution of not more than 400µm.

14. (Previously presented) A method of constructing brake pads comprising the step of utilizing the polymeric composition according to claim 1 as a substrate.

15. (Previously presented) The polymeric composition according to claim 2, wherein the organopolysiloxane resin (II) containing terminal silanol groups is a hydroxy phenyl alkyl silicone resin.

16. (Previously presented) The polymeric composition according to claim 3, wherein the organopolysiloxane resin (II) containing terminal silanol groups is a hydroxy phenyl alkyl silicone resin.

17. (Previously presented) The polymeric composition according to claim 4, wherein the organopolysiloxane resin (II) containing terminal silanol groups is a hydroxy phenyl alkyl silicone resin.

18. (Previously presented) A method of constructing brake pads comprising the step of utilizing the polymeric composition according to claim 2 as a substrate.

19. (Previously presented) A method of constructing brake pads comprising the step of utilizing the polymeric composition according to claim 3 as a substrate.

20. (Previously presented) A method of constructing brake pads comprising the step of utilizing the polymeric composition according to claim 4 as a substrate.